

## Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /076 W

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R 101253Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8902

USINFO WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 7919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LE XF

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE BEIRUT WEEKLEY PRESS

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES RECENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN WEEKLEY BEIRUT PRESS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS.

2. PFLP WEEKLY AL-HADAF (JUN 22) UNDERLINED ITS POSITION IN AFTERMATH OF PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS IN CAIRO "WHICH DID NOT TAKE POSITION BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY OR DEFEATIST CURRENTS" IN ARAB WORLD. PROPER "REVOLUTIONARY" POSITION, HADAF STATED, SHOULD BE TO "ESCALATE ARMED STRUGGLE, MOBILIZE ARAB MASSES TO OPPOSE IMPERIALIST, ZIONIST, REACTIONARY ASSAULT AND INCREASE ALLIANCE WITH ALL ARAB REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AND ALL THE WORLD'S PROGRESSIVE FORCES." ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY PFLP, ALF, PFLP/GC AND POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT DENOUNCING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO ME AND RENEWED REJECTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY AL-AKHBAR (JUN 22) CONTINUED ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO ME "AFTER

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WHICH ISRAEL PROMPTLY STARTED IMPLEMENTING ARTICLES OF

AMERICAN-ISRAELI STATEMENT BY SAVAGE ATTACKS ON BORDER VILLAGES OF LEBANON". SAID NIXON VISIT OPENED DOOR FOR RETURN OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM TO AREA ONLY TO BENEFIT OF U.S. AND ISRAEL. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT RESULTS OF NIXON VISIT WERE: JERUSALEM CONFIRMED AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL, "LEGALIZING" OF IDF ATTACKS ON PALESTINIAN CAMPS, FREEDOM FOR ISRAEL TO PROCRASTINATE RE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WHILE SURROUNDED BY BELT OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES, AND CREATION OF US.-IRANIAN-SAUDI AXIS.

3. INDEPENDENT AS-SAYYAD (JUN 26) DISCUSSED LEBANESE PRIMIN SOLH'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR GODLEY FOLLOWING IAF ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO SAYYAD, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED REGRET FOR KILLING OF INNOCENT VICTIMS AND DEPLORED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT ON FOLLOWING DAY OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENT ISSUED IN WASHINGTON ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED VERY EMBARRASSING TO GOL. SAYYAD INTERPRETED U.S. STATEMENT TO MEAN THAT U.S. GUARANTEE OF LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY DOES NOT INCLUDE AREAS INHABITED BY PALESTINIANS AND THAT U.S. EXPECTS LEBANON PREVENT EXFILTRATION BY AS WELL AS PRESENCE OF FEDAYEEN ON ITS TERRITORY.

4. MOSCOW-CONTROLLED COMMUNIST AL-AKHBAR (29 JUN) CRITICIZED LACK OF GOL ACTION IN FACE OF ISRAELI AIR RAIDS. POINTED OUT THAT WHILE IAF CROSSES LEBANESE SKIES "KILLING AND DESTROYING", GOL DRAWS UP STATISTICS, FORMS COMMITTEES, AND ARRANGES RELIEF FUNDS WHICH END UP INPOCKETS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RARELY GO TO VICTIMS. AKHBAR CONCLUDED THAT DELAY IN CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE AND REPLACING IT WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND INDIVIDUAL ARAB STATES IS AIM BOTH OF U.S. AND ISRAEL. SUCH PROCRASTINATION, IT SAID, IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING FOLLOWING GOALS: IDF RADIS WILL EXHAUST PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL; KING HUSSAIN WILL GAIN TIME TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES LEADING TO RESTORATION OF WEST BANK AND GAZA TO JORDAN AND TO BECOME SOLE JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATOR; QUESTION OF ISRAELI-LEBANESE "DISENGAGEMENT" WOULD GATHER GREAT IMPORTANCE; AND WORSENING ECONOMIC, UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN EGYPT WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOE TO RESUME HOSTILITIES. IN CONCLUSION, AKHBAR WARNED AGAINST PLOTS AIMED AT FORMENTING CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON AND STRESSED THAT ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS FIRM LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY.

5. AL-HADAF (6 JUL) CLAIMED THAT IN WAKE OF DISENGAGEMENT ACCORDS, LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN FRONT IS BEING

SINGLED OUT BY ISRAELI RAIDS TO SPREAD DEFEATISM AND  
FACILITATE TASK FOR THOSE ARAB, PALESTINIAN AND  
LEBANESE REACTIONARIES WHO ATTEMPTING DRAG FEDAYEEN  
TO GENEVA CONFERENCE. CLAIMED ARABDEFENSE COUNCIL  
WAS HELD AT CAIRO NOT TO DEFEND LEBANON AND PALESTINIANS,  
BUT AS COVER FOR ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE FEDAYEEN WITH  
JORDAN. HADAF STRESSED THAT ANY THOUGHT OF ACCEPTING  
RECONCILIATION WITH JORDAN IS "TREASON". GODLEY

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